



Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative

Definitions
Subcommittee

Synia Gant-Jordan

Wende Randall

Mary Wilkins

August 16, 2023

AGENDA



Our Charge

Mary Wilkins



Our Approach

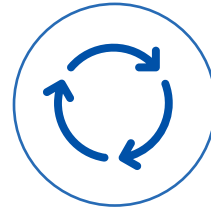
Synia Gant-Jordan



Survey Thoughts and Ideas

Review Survey Results

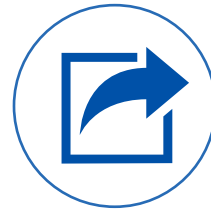
Wende Randall



Feedback Loop

Review Survey Results

Synia Gant-Jordan



Decide on Existing Definitions

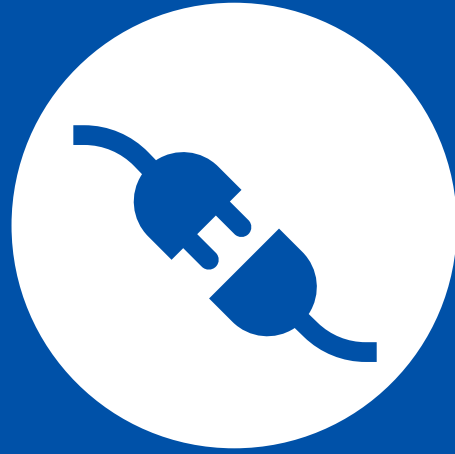
Equitable Treatment & Environmental Justice

Mary Wilkins



Next Steps

Mary Wilkins



OUR CHARGE

>> Our Charge

01 Define

Define 'Equity' and related terms per Case No. U-20836, pages 461-463/606.

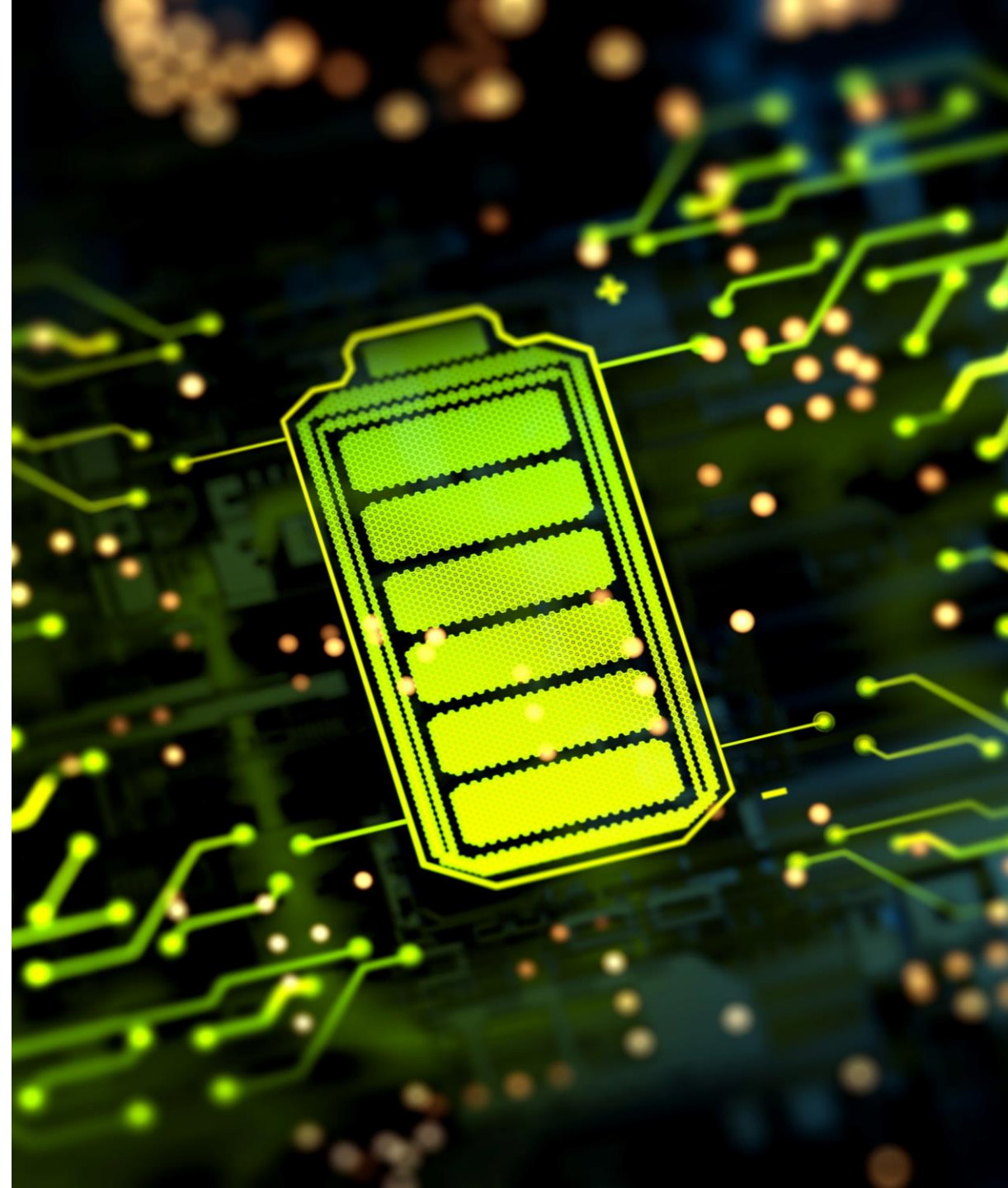
02 Consider

Take into consideration the proposed definition of energy affordability.

A household has the resources to meet their home energy needs for heating, cooling and other uses in a healthy, sustainable and energy efficient manner without compromising a household's ability to meet other basic needs

03 Define

Define 'equity,' 'environmental justice,' 'energy justice,' and 'grid equity.'



Shared Goals



To provide definitions for a common understanding of words and terms utilized in communication around low-income energy policy



To enhance and clarify understanding of defined words and terms.



In the defining of words and terms utilized in communication around low-income energy policy, broaden understanding of factors impacting low-income energy customers.



OUR APPROACH

Pledge to Position Ourselves for Progress

My stance toward others:

- Give others the benefit of the doubt
- Listen to others with respect, empathy and trust
- Demonstrate cultural humility toward others
- Be an ally and provide support
- Make it safe for others to speak up

My stance toward myself:

- Have the courage to show up and lean in
- If I am feeling offended, consider if and how to share
- Desire to understand and learn
- Engage in dialogue, not debate
- Ensure my voice is heard; it is important

Participation

Meaningful Involvement: People have an opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their environment and/or health; decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected; People's concerns are considered in decision-making processes; and People can influence state agency decisions.

- MiEJScreen slide deck, EGLE

Our Intent as a Subcommittee



To include the thoughts and opinions of individuals from identified communities in decision-making processes around these definitions.

To behave in ways that build trust.

To focus on what this subcommittee can influence:

- Terms to be defined by this subcommittee.
- These terms will inform discussions of equity and affordability in rate cases and the grid.
- Opportunity to create a feedback loop with those sharing thoughts and opinions.



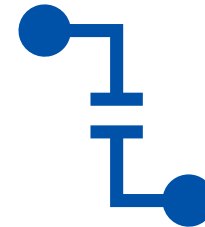
SURVEY THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

Defining Equity Process Survey



19 of 46 Subcommittee members have completed the survey.

Thank you to those who have completed; you have offered some great feedback!

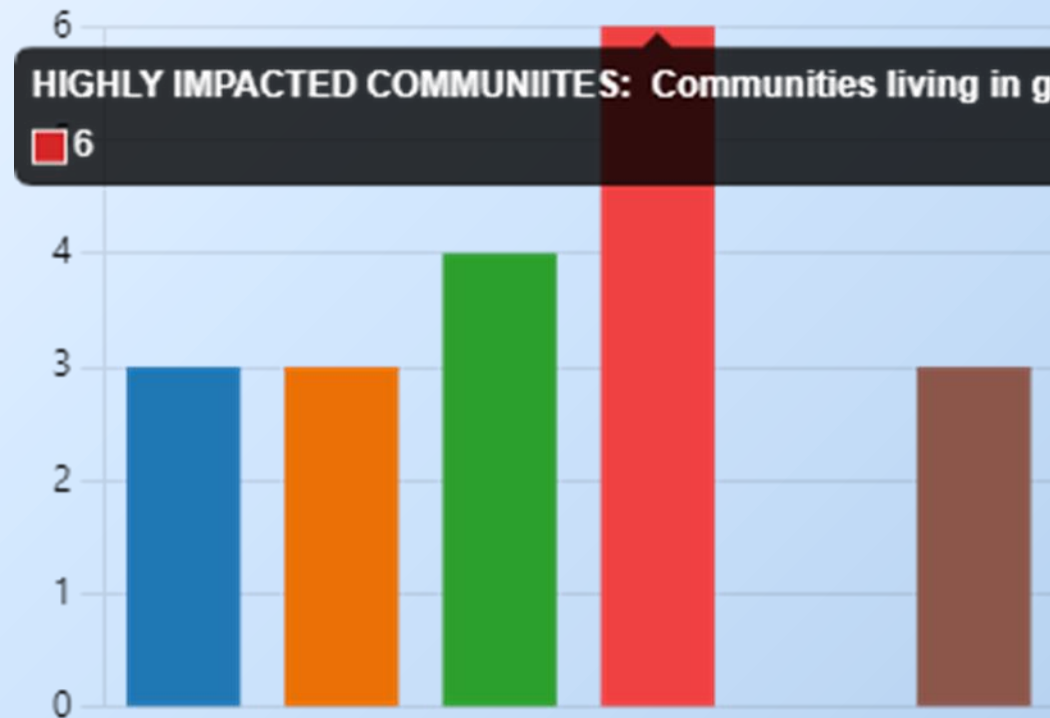


Within the 19 there is a lack of consensus.

Identified Communities Question

- Which of the following best describes or identifies the individuals or communities we need to include in decision-making process?
 - UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES People who have a decreased level of service or access to energy system services.
 - MARGINALIZED PEOPLE: People excluded from participating in decision-making and those who lack access to basic economic, political, cultural, and social activities.
 - VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: Those who are economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, rural residents, those with inadequate education, and those with other socio-economic challenges.
 - HIGHLY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES: Communities living in geographic locations characterized by energy inequity and facing economic or historical barriers to participation in energy decisions and solutions.
 - DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES
 - LOW TO MODERATE INCOME PERSONS OR HOUSEHOLDS: People who make less than X% of median income.

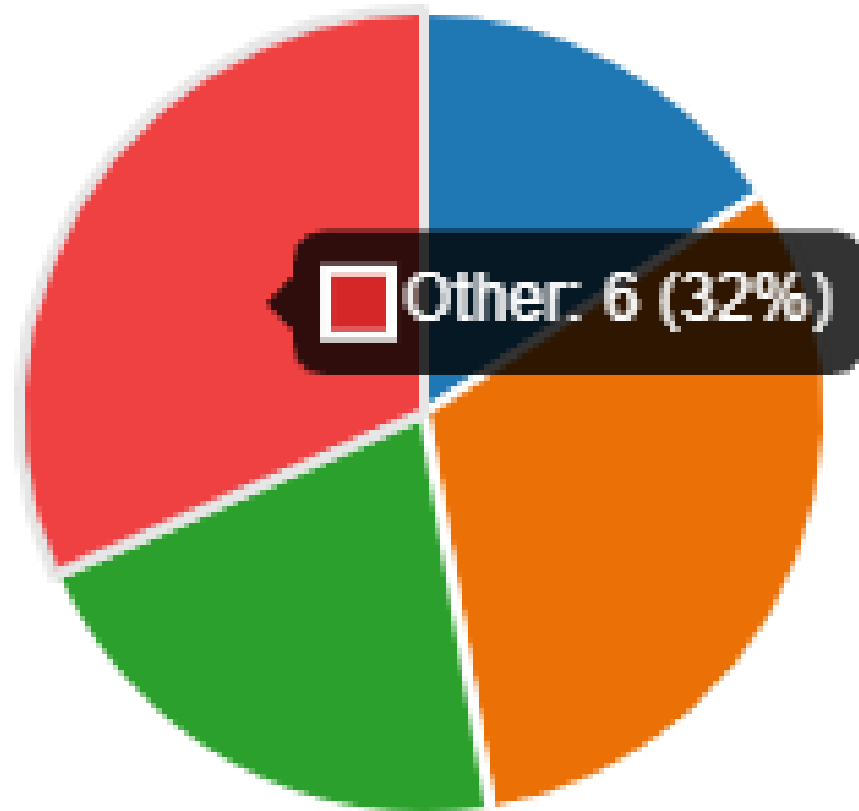
Identified Communities Preferred



HIGHLY IMPACTED COMMUNITITES: Communities living in geographic locations characterized by energy inequity and facing economic or historical barriers to participation in energy decisions and solutions.

Participation Methods

- Considering time and resource limitations, what will be the most effective way of having people from identified communities participate in decisions regarding defining equity and related terms for energy regulatory processes?
 - Listening Sessions (3)
 - Focus Groups (6)
 - Surveys (4)
 - Other (6)



Including Identified Communities

- Please share your ideas on HOW TO INCLUDE the thoughts and opinions of individuals from identified communities in decision-making processes: (19 responses)
- Ideas included connection points:
 - DHHS
 - MEAP Grantees
 - Food Pantries
 - Community Agencies
 - Community Events / Agency Fairs
 - Holiday Giveaways
 - Houses of Worship and Faith –based Organizations
 - Door to Door Encounters
 - State-wide virtual meeting place

Including Identified Communities Continued

- Please share your ideas on HOW TO INCLUDE the thoughts and opinions of individuals from identified communities in decision-making processes:
- Ideas included understanding:
 - Take the meeting to them to gain trust / accessibility.
 - Gather community input first.
 - Understand what people think an equitable experience would look and feel like.
 - Understand the depth and breadth of the issues an equity definition must effectively address.
 - Include comments from community members in reports.
 - Include space for folks to elaborate on feelings.

Identified Communities Continued

- Please share your ideas on HOW TO INCLUDE the thoughts and opinions of individuals from identified communities in decision-making processes:
- Other process ideas:
 - Must be beneficial and cost effective for all.
 - Compensate community members for leadership roles in info-gathering and decision-making processes.
 - The responsibility of the staff to make community input actionable in the context of regulatory decisions.
 - Examine if recommendations can and how to make them work.
 - Weigh the pros and cons; who is responsible to make it happen.
 - Add metrics to evaluate success and failures.
 - If listening sessions, develop consensus and then a vote.
 - Collect data into a pareto chart of core themes.
 - Identify which community the feedback is from
 - Identify most critical themes (1-5) for prioritization

Feedback Loop

- Please share any ideas you have for creating a FEEDBACK LOOP to inform participants of the impact their input had (17 responses):
- Methods:
 - Email (7 responses),
 - Facebook groups,
 - Newsletter (quarterly),
 - Open meeting,
 - Phone,
 - Spaces that people frequent,
 - Thank you notes,
 - U.S. mail, website,
 - Webpage,
 - Wide variety of formats.

Ideas for a Feedback Loop

- Please share any ideas you have for creating a FEEDBACK LOOP to inform participants of the impact their input had (17 responses):
- Other thoughts:
 - An interactive process is key.
 - Make opportunities for impact public.
 - Bring our work back to the same people in the same venue at a specified time and soliciting their feedback.
 - Ask how they would like to receive feedback.
 - Communicate timing of feedback.
 - Obtain feedback on data before submission to the Commission.

Feedback Loop Continued

- Please share any ideas you have for creating a FEEDBACK LOOP to inform participants of the impact their input had (17 responses):
- Other thoughts:
 - Evaluate how the definition and metrics were utilized and material outcomes from Commission rulings referencing them.
 - Share impacts with those that provided input.
 - Track progress (4) step by step utilizing visuals.
 - No feedback loop is needed if the circle is complete, and our presence is there throughout the entire process.
 - Have a dedicated person working w/ CAA and their focus group.

Grassroots Partners

Please identify potential GRASSROOTS PARTNERS the subcommittee could connect with in this process:
(13 responses)

- Advocacy groups
- American Legion
- Charitable organizations
- Churches
- Community Action Agencies
- Community Centers
- DHHS
- Federally Recognized Tribes of Michigan (12)
- Grass-roots organizers
- MEAP Grantees
- Paid employees of community organizations
- Salons and barber shops
- United Way
- VA
- VFW
- Black Impact Collaborative Elders Council
- Calvary Presbyterian Church of Detroit
- Community Up Project
- Detroit Association of Black Organizations
- Detroit Eastside Community Network
- Detroit Peoples Platform
- Don't Waste Michigan
- First AME Church
- Historic People's Community Church
- Justice 4 All
- Madison Heights Citizens United
- Michigan Anishinabek Caucus
- Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
- MLPP Community Engagement Team
- Sistas In Development
- The National Forum for Black Public Administrators
- We Care, Inc.
- We The People Detroit

Connectors

- If you would like to BE CONSIDERED A CONNECTOR for these collaborative processes, please share your contact information here:
- 9 responses including contact information.
- Thank you!



Decision Point – Participation Method

- Leaders recommend a modified survey format*
 - Make the survey available both in electronic and paper formats.
 - House the electronic form of the survey on a webpage
 - Offer the option of storytelling, written or voice, on the webpage.
 - Include a release of information.
 - Stories would not be analyzed, only survey results.
 - Include a QR code on the paper format.
 - Distribute surveys via email in pdf format or in paper form to community places where people gather.
 - Mail in option
 - Considering the option of a student to analyze results
 - **Feasibility to be verified.*

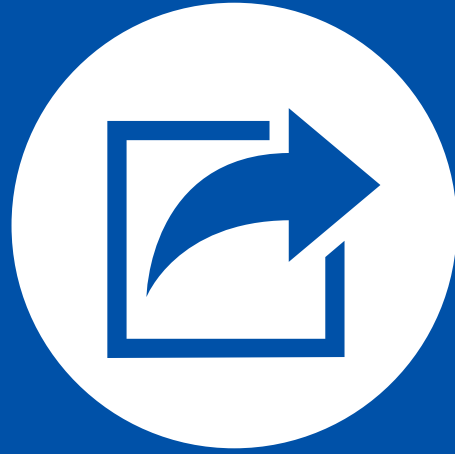
Decision Point – Content

- Leaders recommend Likert scale questions re: what factors do you think about when you think about energy equity? How important are these things to you?
 - Access to resources
 - Reliability / outages
 - Payment methodologies
 - Access to emerging technologies, etc.
- Include a comment box
- Request demographic information
- Request geographic information

Decision Point – Feedback Loop

- Leaders recommend a web page
 - Housed on same page as original survey
- Also, ½ page postcard-style flyer
 - Utilize a QR code
 - Distribute flyers to same locations where data was collected
- Email or mail thank you and follow-up links to participants*

□ **Feasibility to be verified.*



DECIDING ON EXISTING DEFINITIONS

June 28 Subcommittee Poll

- Regarding existing State of Michigan definitions of:
 - Self-sufficiency - MEAP Workgroup
 - Energy Affordability - EAAC Definitions Subcommittee
 - Environmental Justice - MI Dept. of EGLE
 - Equitable Treatment - MI Dept. of EGLE
- Survey respondents: 3
- You may still share your thoughts:
 - [Definitions Subcommittee Poll 6/28/2023](#)
 - Deadline: August 30
- If no further input, we will accept these definitions via tacit consent.

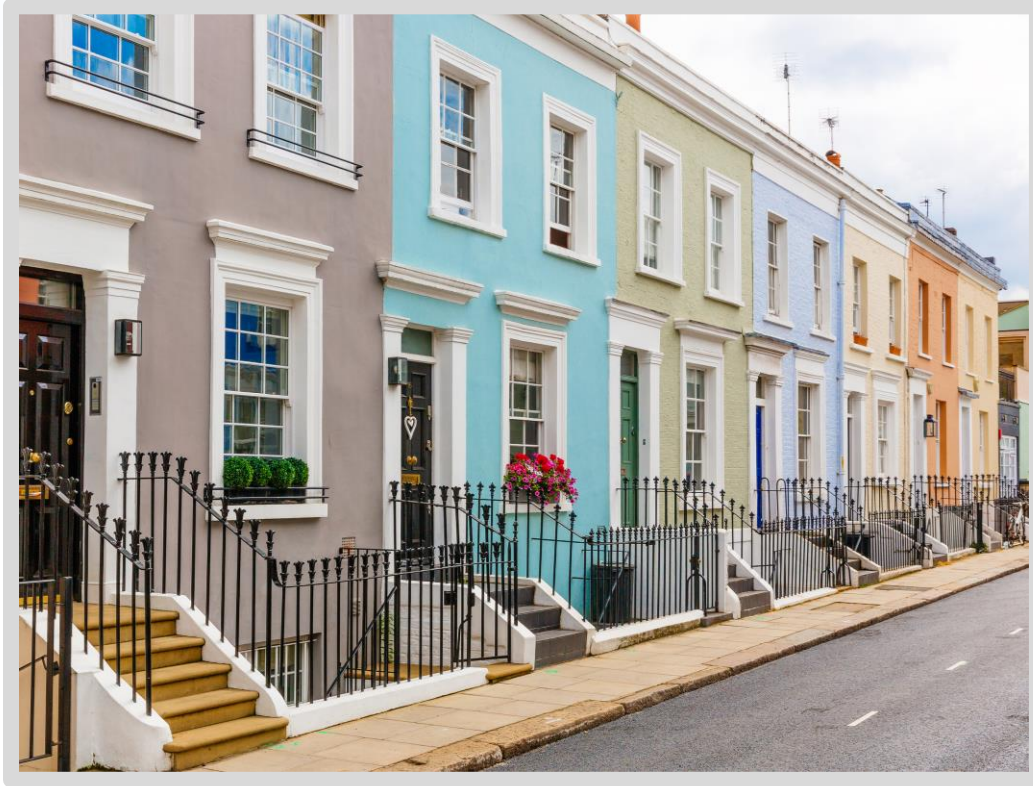
Yet to be defined for Michigan

- Not defined
 - Home Energy Security
 - Reliability
 - Grid Equity
 - Energy Equity
 - Energy Justice



NEXT STEPS

...Next Steps



- If you would like to respond to the June 28 Subcommittee Poll, please do so now or by August 30th.
- September 16 meeting:
 - Review Definitions
 - Energy Reliability
 - Home Energy Security